ORD's Office of Science Policy Program Support Staff

Factsheet

The overarching goal of the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) program support function is to support the Agency's use of sound science in its regulations, policies, and guidance. This is accomplished by constructively advising the programs and regions on using the best available scientific information during the development of these products and by overseeing the Agency's compliance with the Peer Review Policy and Handbook.

Program Support Staff Responsibilities

ORD's Program Support Staff in the Office of Science Policy (OSP) have the primary responsibility for:

- Coordinating and prioritizing ORD's program support activities with ORD laboratories and the program offices.
- Developing ORD positions on policy, technical, and scientific issues associated with these activities.
- Providing information and expert judgement on scientific issues and the application of science policies in Agency regulatory activities.

To maximize the value of ORD's input to the program offices, OSP works with the programs and ORD's research laboratories and centers to reach agreement on the relative priorities of program support activities. For each priority activity, OSP generally organizes teams of ORD scientists that identify potentially significant scientific issues and determine the appropriate extent of ORD participation. OSP also facilitates a trusting and cooperative relationship between ORD and the program and regional offices by promoting effective and reliable communication on various levels. Through these efforts, OSP helps to ensure that ORD's involvement is timely, responsive, and of added value throughout the regulatory review process.

Activities

- OSP meets with the Program Office Directors to discuss their needs for ORD support. The meetings were helpful in prioritizing the rules and other activities on which ORD should focus:
- OSP is tracking more than 320 regulatory and non-regulatory program activities that have science issues, about one-half of which involve significant ORD participation. ORD's participation in these activities will help strengthen the scientific basis and ensure that risks are characterized properly and transparently. Examples of program activities with which ORD has been involved include:
  - Inorganic Chemical Rule for Hazardous Wastes
  - Aggregate Risk Guidance, part of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)
  - Organophosphate Cumulative Risk Assessment
  - Criteria Document for the Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
  - Draft National Beach Guidance
  - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

Program Support Staff

The Program Support Staff is divided into five teams. Each team is dedicated to a particular media and has a Team Leader or Media Manager. There also are eight Hazardous Substances Technical Liaisons (HSTLs) working in regional offices that provide ORD support on hazardous waste management issues.

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